

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01377 231156Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----231157Z 004512 /46

O R 231126Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4621  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1377

EXDIS

E O 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW GE US FR UR UK  
SUBJ: ALLIED PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN: PRESS INQUIRIES

1. THE BRITISH MISSION HAS JUST SENT US THE FOLLOWING  
MESSAGE ABOUT HOW THE FCO HAS HANDLED AND HOW IT PROPOSES  
FURTHER TO HANDLE PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT THE SOVIET DEMARCHE  
ON FLAG TOURS. THEIR MESSAGE WAS DATED MAY 21, BUT WE ONLY  
RECEIVED IT TODAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HAS  
JUST INFORMED US THAT THE FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN  
ASKED TODAY BY DPA WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A SOVIET COM-  
PLAINT ABOUT ALLIED PATROLS AND WHETHER THE MATTER  
WAS DISCUSSED AT THE FOUR POWER SUMMIT ON BERLIN ON 9 MAY.  
THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LINE RECOMMENDED IN THE BONN GROUP  
(I.E., QUOTE IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO COMMENT ON RUMOURS  
OF THIS SORT UNQUOTE) BUT ANTICIPATE FURTHER QUESTIONS  
OVER THE WEEKEND.

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3. IF QUESTIONED, THEY PROPOSE TO SAY ON THE RECORD:  
QUOTE WE CANNOT COMMENT ON RUMOURS ABOUT EXCHANGES WITH  
THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON BERLIN. THE ATTITUDE OF THE  
FOUR WESTERN ALLIES ON BERLIN WAS CLEARLY STATED IN THE  
DECLARATION OF THE FOUR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF 9 MAY.  
ALL ASPECTS OF THE BERLIN SITUATION WERE OF COURSE TAKEN

INTO CONSIDERATION AT THE MEETING ON 9 MAY. ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE CUSTOMARY WAY. UK, US AND FRENCH MILITARY PATROLS CONTINUE TO MOVE FREELY INTO AND THROUGH EAST BERLIN, JUST AS SOVIET SERVICEMEN PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES IN THE WESTERN SECTORS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INTERRUPTION OF THIS TRAFFIC. UNQUOTE.

4. IF PRESSED, THEY WILL SAY UNATTRIBUTABLY:

QUOTE AS YOU WILL KNOW, THERE HAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEEN A RUNNING DEBATE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, INITIATED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR, ABOUT WHAT IS USUALLY CALLED THE STATUS OF BERLIN. AS FAR AS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, THE CENTRAL QUESTION IS NOT SO MUCH STATUS AS THE EXERCISE OF QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WHOLE OF BERLIN AND THE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. AS I HAVE SAID, ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE CUSTOMARY WAY. THIS MATTERS MORE THAN THE VARIOUS CLAIMS MADE IN THE DEBATE ABOUT STATUS. UNQUOTE. END TEXT.

5. WE ARE EXPRESSING OUR DISMAY TO THE BRITISH MISSION, BECAUSE THE LINE GOES MUCH FURTHER THAN THAT CONTEMPLATED BY THE BONN GROUP, AND ITS UNILATERAL USE WILL CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE OTHER ALLIES. ANY REMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, MAY BE TOO LATE.

6. THE HIBBERT LINE RE STATUS VS. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
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BILITIES EMERGES ABOVE IN ITS MOST UNDILUTED FORM. GEORGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, HARASSMENT, BERLIN ACCESS, PRESS RELEASES, MILITARY VEHICLES, MILITARY VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** ALLIED PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN: PRESS INQUIRIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, GC, US, FR, UR, UK  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009